

October 21, 2019

EX PARTE NOTICE

VIA ECFS

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commissions
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Improving Competitive Broadband Access to Multiple Tenant Environments, GN Docket No. 17-142; Petition for Preemption of Article 52 of the San Francisco Police Code Filed by the Multifamily Broadband Council, MB Docket No. 17-91; Rural Digital Opportunity Fund, WC Docket No. 19-126; and Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90.

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Thursday, October 17, 2019, Chip Pickering, CEO of INCOMPAS, Chris Shipley, Attorney and Policy Advisor of INCOMPAS, and the undersigned met with FCC Chairman Ajit Pai, Nirali Patel, Wireline Advisor to Chairman Pai, and Aaron Goldberger, Wireless & International Advisor to Chairman Pai. During the meeting, INCOMPAS commended the Commission for taking meaningful action to enable more fixed broadband deployment and competition for consumers who live and work in multiple tenant environments (“MTEs”) and declared its support for the agency’s current Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (“NPRM”). We stated that the Commission’s proposal to address the practices that have denied competitive providers access to MTEs will ensure customers—whether they be millennials on a starter budget, a retired American on a fixed budget, or a small business on a start-up budget—are able to exercise their choice for broadband service and will help them reap the benefits of competition, including lower prices and higher speeds, while encouraging more broadband deployment.

We also expressed our support for the Commission’s Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (“RDOF”) NPRM, specifically stating that INCOMPAS supports more competition for the high-cost fund through an RDOF reverse auction. INCOMPAS believes that a reverse auction that will allow numerous entities to compete for funding will promote more efficient distribution of high-cost funding. INCOMPAS supports the NPRM’s proposal to weight bids that can deliver up to 1 Gigabit speeds more favorably in the reverse auction, noting that broadband demand is growing and rural communities need comparable service as urban and suburban areas.

Accordingly, we discussed INCOMPAS' proposal for adopting a fifth goal for the RDOF—namely that it should promote the availability of reasonably comparable service for consumers and businesses in rural, insular, and high-cost areas as required by Section 254(b)(3) of the Communications Act.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Angie Kronenberg

Angie Kronenberg
Chief Advocate & General Counsel

cc: Chairman Pai
Nirali Patel
Aaron Goldberger